

REMARKS**I. STATUS OF APPLICATION**

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 12, 13, 20, 21, 31, and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The limitations of claims 12, 20, and 31 have been incorporated into independent claims 7, 15, and 26, respectively. Claims 13, 21, and 32 now depend from claims 7, 15, and 26, respectively. Claims 2, 5, 11, 12, 19, 20, 24, 30, 31, and 34 have been canceled. No new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 3, 6-10, 13-18, 21, 22, 25-29, 32, 33, and 35-40 are pending in the present Application and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

II. 35 USC § 103 REJECTIONS**A. Rejection over Sellers in view of Morii**

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 15, 17-19, 24-26, 28-30, 32, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,311,438 to Sellers *et al.* ("Sellers") in view of U.S. Patent 5,237,495 to Morii ("Morii"). The Office Action, however, indicates that claim 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Correction to indicate that claim 32 does not stand rejected over Sellers in view of Morii is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 5, 11, 19, 24, 30, and 34 have been canceled. Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 25, 26, 28, and 29 are now in condition for allowance, as discussed above. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 15,

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17-19, 24-26, 28-30, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Sellers in view of Morii, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

B. Rejection over Sellers in view of Morii and Baseman

Claims 8, 14, 16, 22, 27, 33, and 35-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sellers in view of Morii and U.S. Patent 6,671,673 to Baseman *et al.* ("Baseman"). Each of the rejected claims now depends from one of allowable independent claims 7, 15, and 26. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 8, 14, 16, 22, 27, 33, and 35-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Sellers in view of Morii and Baseman, be reconsidered and withdrawn.


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CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (817) 578-8616 with any questions, comments, or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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